

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PORS

SUBJ: GCOB EXPRESSION OF CONCERN RE CUBAN INVOLVEMENT IN MIAMI  
AIRPORT SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS

1. I RECEIVED A CALL THIS MORNING FROM CLEMENT MAYNARD, MINISTER OF TOURISM. (MAYNARD IS SENIOR MINISTER BELOW PRIMIN AND DEPPRIMIN.) MAYNARD, WHO IS ON VERY FRIENDLY BASIS WITH EMBASSY AND WHO IS NORMALLY A RATHER QUIET, ALMOST TRANQUIL MAN, WAS CLEARLY INCENSED. THE BASIS OF HIS CONCERN WAS RELATED TO A RECENT FLIGHT WHICH HE MADE ON BAHAMASAIR, NATIONAL CARRIER OF THE BAHAMAS, FROM MIAMI TO NASSAU. MAYNARD STATED THAT HE AND HIS WIFE, AS WELL AS OTHER BAHAMIANS UTILIZING THE FLIGHT, WERE SEARCHED BY CUBANS WHO COULD HARDLY SPEAK ENGLISH. MAYNARD STATED THAT THIS WAS INTOLERABLE TO BAHAMIANS, ESPECIALLY IN VIEW OF FACT THAT "IT IS THESE CUBAN-AMERICANS WHO ARE PLACING BOMBS ON BAHAMASAIR FLIGHTS." HE STATED THAT HE WAS RECEIVING ENDLESS NUMBERS OF PROTESTS.

2. WHILE I TRIED TO MOLLIFY MAYNARD, I EXPLAINED TO HIM THAT AIRPORT WAS PRIVATELY OWNED AND UNDOUBTEDLY CONTRACTED WITH A PRIVATE SECURITY SERVICE TO PROVIDE NECESSARY EXAMINATION OF PASSENGERS BOARDING AIRCRAFT. I SAID THAT I WOULD NEVER- THELESS INFORM WASHINGTON IF HIS COMPLAINT. MAYNARD SAID THAT HE WAS ALSO GOING TO RAISE THE MATTER WITH ADDERLEY, IMPLYING

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THE NEED FOR A FORMAL PROTEST.

3. COMMENT: EVEN IF MAYNARD DOES RAISE THE ISSUE WITH ADDERLEY WE MAY OR MAY NOT RECEIVE A PROTEST SINCE ON PURELY TECHNICAL GROUNDS IT IS QUESTIONABLE THAT GCOB HAS A CASE. REALISTICALLY SPEAKING, HOWEVER, THERE IS A PROBLEM. I HAVE PERSONALLY USED BAHAMASAIR FROM MIAMI WITHIN THE LAST TEN DAYS AND CAN TESTIFY TO THE FACT THAT I WAS SEARCHED BY THREE APPARENTLY CUBAN-AMERICAN SECURITY GUARDS. THEY WERE RATHER THOROUGH AND A BIT BRUSQUE, ALTHOUGH I WOULD NOT SAY THAT THEY WERE IMPOLITE. HOWEVER, FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF A BAHAMIAN WHO HARBORS A DEEP-SEATED ANTIPATHY TOWARD CUBANS OF ANY STRIPE AND WHO IS UNDERSTANDABLY PARTICULARLY INCENSED AT CUBAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY WHOM BAHAMIANS RATHER INDISCRIMINATELY ASSOCIATE WITH THE LOBSTER FISHERMEN WHO HAVE BOMBED BAHAMIAN BOATS AND ATTEMPTED TO BOMB BAHAMASAIR AIRCRAFT, IT IS NOT HARD TO SEE WHY THEY WOULD BE UPSET AT BEING SEARCHED BY CUBAN-AMERICAN SECURITY GUARDS. INDEED, I SUPPOSE IT IS AT LEAST POSSIBLE THAT SOME OF THE CUBAN-AMERICAN GUARDS HAVE NO PARTICULAR LOVE FOR THE BAHAMIANS.

4. SINCE A GOOD NUMBER OF THE GUARDS AT THE AIRPORT ARE NOT CUBAN, I WOULD THINK IT HIGHLY ADVISABLE TO DISCUSS WITH AIRPORT OFFICIALS IN MIAMI THE POSSIBILITY OF HAVING SUCH GUARDS ASSIGNED TO THE BAHAMASAIR FLIGHTS WHICH, AFTER ALL, MAKE UP A TINY FRACTION OF TOTAL FLIGHTS ARRIVING AND DEPARTING FROM MIAMI AIRPORT. I WOULD ALSO NOTE THAT AT LEAST ON THE RECENT BAHAMASAIR FLIGHT WHICH I TOOK (NO. 55 ON DECEMBER 15) FROM MIAMI AIRPORT X-RAY EQUIPMENT WHICH IS IN GENERAL USE AT THE AIRPORT WAS NOT UTILIZED. AS A RESULT, A THREE-MAN TEAM OF CUBAN-AMERICANS SEARCHED ME AND MY CARRY-ON LUGGAGE. NORMALLY WITH USE OF X-RAY EQUIPMENT, HAND LUGGAGE IS NOT OPENED AND PHYSICAL SEARCH OF PASSENGERS IS LIMITED. WHY AIRPORT DOES NOT USE THESE FACILITIES ON AT LEAST SOME OF BAHAMASAIR FLIGHTS (IF NOT ON ALL) I DO NOT KNOW.

5. WOULD APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT CHECKING INTO MATTER. HOPEFULLY, WITH A LITTLE COOPERATION ON PART OF AIRPORT OFFICIALS, WE CAN QUICKLY FORECLOSE WHAT MIGHT OTHERWISE TURN INTO A MAJOR RHUBARB.

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## Message Attributes

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